



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
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JUL 27 2007

Memorandum

To: Service Directorate

From: *Acting* Director *Paula D. Matthews*

Subject: Early Detection and Response Plan for Occurrence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Wild Birds

This memo transmits the *Early Detection and Response Plan* (Plan) for your use and distribution to all Service field stations. The Plan provides detailed procedural guidance for Service preparation for, and response to, an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in wild birds in North America. While the Plan provides guidance on a broad range of topics addressing procedures to follow in the event of an outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds, I particularly want to draw your attention to the following:

- The need to have a Regional HPAI Coordinator to coordinate preparedness and response efforts within the Service and with our partners;
- The importance of having up-to-date Disease Contingency Plans for National Wildlife Refuges and other Service lands hosting significant migratory bird populations;
- The Service-specific guidelines on personal protective equipment to be used by Service employee involved in surveillance activities or response. These Service-specific guidelines supersede the interim PPE guidelines issued on August 11, 2006. (See Appendix 4 of the Plan)

The Assistant Director for Migratory Birds is assuming responsibility for bureau-wide coordination of avian influenza surveillance, preparedness, and response activities conducted by the Service. The Migratory Birds program will coordinate updates or revisions to the Plan as needed, and will post it, along with related background materials, on their intranet site at <https://intranet/fws.gov/region9/mbasp/avianflu/>.

Please contact Bob Blohm, Chief, Division of Migratory Bird Management, at (703) 358-1966 if you have any questions or need additional information.

